



LETTERS

Support

I was shocked, surprised, overwhelmed and delighted by the huge amount of support I've received over the hate flier I received a few weeks ago, and also at the Federal Building rally April 30.

Thanks to everyone for sending me off in style with lots of good memories. You've given me a huge wonderful community to come back to. See ya in the future.

K'ronda Adair
Portland

The line

I am concerned with the recent events involving the Rodney King trial and the subsequent violence that had followed both in Los Angeles and here.

With regards to the videotape, what happened can be read in many different ways: as another example of the abusive practices of the white-dominated power structure in the U.S. with regards to people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, or as an attack on a member of the growing underclass by the agents of "elite-controlled" authority in our country.

However they have chosen to read it, people have reacted with anger (and I think rightly

so). I think the violence that has happened is the inevitable result of pressures that have been building up in our society for a long time.

My question is this: Now that those of us who want change have seen what a symbol like the Rodney King verdict can compel people to do, can we use this same momentum to cause a fundamental and long-lasting change in our society? Can we do it non-violently, without making a "them" out of the people who stand in its way, or is this something that's going to be swept under the carpet on an episode of the nightly news — another invisible line that will further divide us?

Andy Bell
FAA/sociology

Closed mouth

Your editorial on Ross Perot (ODE, May 1) cautions us to beware of his "unpolitician-like ability to keep his mouth shut." You suggest his silence, loaded money clip and success in the business world does not a presidential candidate make.

I suggest his silence is both appropriate and applaudable, and that Perot is not spouting political rhetoric for two reasons: One, he is not a gift-of-the-gab political clone, and

two, he is not an official presidential candidate.

You say he has been "anointed." I say he is being voluntarily drafted — that is, he has agreed to serve his country to the best of his ability if a significant number of people sign the "draft papers" to put him on the ballot.

What a novelty — someone entering the political arena by way of overwhelming requests as opposed to double-talk and baby-kissing!

You refer to Perot's personality as "iconoclastic," and therefore, fret about his ability to elicit a supportive Congress. Do you mean the same support Bush has from Congress?

I think of Perot as a potential leader, not a potential politician. I've seen how resourceful and effective a politician can be as president. If given a choice, I'm not afraid to vote for a leader.

His self-made wealth and "can-do" attitude are not ominous indicators of his ability to lead as a president. His silence befits a man of action, and until he is an official candidate, there is no reason for extraneous talk. A wise man knows when to keep his mouth shut — "a closed mouth gathers no foot."

Lynda Westcott
Journalism

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